

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 4003

DEPT. PLEASE PASS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TECH, TGEN, BTIO, BEXP, USIRJC

SUBJ: EARLY WARNING: POSSIBLE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE FIELD OF POLLUTION MONITORING AND POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

1. THE IRANIAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS PROMULGATED NEW ANTI POLLUTION REGULATIONS AS THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS EVIDENTLY BECOMING MORE CONCERNED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN TEHRAN. THE POLLUTION LEVEL IN TEHRAN, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE KAYHAN (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) NEWS-PAPER ON APRIL 4, 1977, IS NOW FIVE TIMES THE LEVEL CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS BY AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND INCREASES BY TEN TO TWENTY PER CENT ANNUALLY. THE LEVEL OF CARBON MONOXIDE IN TEHRAN IS NOW TEN TIMES THE INTERNATIONALLY LABELLED DANGER LEVEL.

2. NEW ANTI-POLLUTION REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED FOR HEATERS AND BOILERS, BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNITS. HOME OWNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE SMOKE-PRODUCING HEATERS AND BOILERS REPAIRED BEFORE NEXT WINTER, ACCORDING TO THE NEWS ARTICLE.

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3. THE MAIN SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CEMENT PLANTS, REFINERIES, ASPHALT PLANTS AND ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS. PLANTS IN THESE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS FILTERS AND ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS) TO PURIFY THEIR DISCHARGES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT THAT SOME

EUROPEAN FIRMS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
MARKETING SUCH DEVICES.

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO EXPANDING ITS
NETWORK OF MEASURING/MONITORING STATIONS TO CITIES OUT-
SIDE TEHRAN. ORDERS ARE BEING PLACED FOR INSTRUMENTS
INCLUDING MOBILE UNITS TO MONITOR DUST, SULFUR, AND
FUMES IN THE AIR, MEASURING THEIR CONCENTRATION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

5. WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS, THE GOVERN-
MENT IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE A STRIDENT SET OF RULES
DESIGNED TO CONTROL POLLUTION EMANATING FROM CARS AND
TRUCKS, MOTOR VEHICLES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE PRIME
SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION IN TEHRAN, AND ALL TYPES OF
MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE COVERED BY THE NEW REGULATIONS.

6. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEW EMPHASIS IN ANTI-
POLLUTION MEASURES WILL CREATE A MARKET FOR AMERICAN
TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTS IN THIS FIELD.

7. FYI: PLEASE NOTE THAT ESTIMATES GIVEN BY GOI
OFFICIALS OF AMOUNT OF TIME REQUIRED TO PASS NEW
LEGISLATION IS USALLY VERY OPTIMISTIC. WE
THEREFORE WOULD EXPECT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GOVERN-
MENT REGULATIONS TO TAKE LONGER THAN THE 3-4 MONTH
PERIOD AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO ENFORCE SUCH
REGULATIONS CONSIDERABLY LONGER.

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